(c) and (d) The details are as under:

Name of Products	April'04-Feb'05 (2004-05) (Prov.) thousand metric tonnes	Average Export Price Rs./MT
LPG	69	15,913
Motor Spirit	2,567	19,035
Naphtha	2,731	16,976
HSD	6,531	15,689
Lubes/LOBS	1	67,209
' Fuel Oil	1,608	8,323
VGO	98	11,723
SKO/ATF	2,175	17,264
SKO	11	20,695
Reformate	307	16,882
Bitumen	33	6,776
White Oil/Paraffin	9	44,592

Foreign investment in oil sector

†2884. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several countries in the world have offered for capital investment in oil sector in India;

(b) if so, the names of these countries and the content of the offers made by each country; and

(c) the decision Government have taken so far with regard to these offers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The upstream and refining segments of the oil

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sector have been opened up for foreign direct investment. Private parties including foreign companies are also permitted to market transportation fuels subject to a minimum investment of Rs. 2000 crores in specified areas. Similarly foreign direct investment is also permitted, indeed encouraged, in the gas sector.

(b) Investments in oil and gas sector have been made by several foreign companies. These include, amongst others, multinationals such as BG; Cairn Energy (United Kingdom), Niko Resources and Canoro (Canada) in the upstream; national oil company of Iran in refining and Shell in marketing.

(c) For upstream investments, roadshows under the fifth round of New Exploration Licencing Policy have been held in London, Dubai, Houston, Calgary, Moscow, Amsterdam, Perth and Kuala Lumpur. The outcome of the roadshows in terms of attracting investments from abroad will be known after bids close on 31st May, 2005. For investment in refining and gas sectors, discussions are in progress with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iran. Other countries have also indicated interest on which follow up action is being taken.

Import of crude oil at lower prices

†2885. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the fact that in view of the increasing prices of crude oil in the international market and this becoming a regular feature, it is the foremost need that the country gets crude oil at lower prices;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have made efforts for making contacts with other countries in the world to get cheaper crude oil;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is a fact that private companies in the country have also taken initiative in this regard?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.